April, 1993, and declared closed in February, 2003. YAP-Phase-II was commenced in December, 2004. The total approved cost of both the phases of Yamuna Action Plan is Rs. 1339 crores and expenditure incurred so far under both the phases is 719.76 crores. In addition to the YAP, the Government of NCT of Delhi has also taken up large scale pollution abatement works for river Yamuna from its own resources. In this regard Delhi Jal Board has envisaged the laying of interceptor sewers along major drains, augmentation of sewage treatment plants, interception of small drains, rehabilitation of trunk sewers and construction of additional sewage treatment plants.

A total of 269 schemes have been implemented in 21 towns of the three States of Delhi, Uttar Pradesh and Haryana and 753.25 million litres per day of sewage treatment capacity has been created so far under both the phases of YAP. As per the water quality monitoring of river Yamuna conducted by independent reputed institutions, while the water quality of river Yamuna is within the prescribed limits in the State of Haryana, it has not shown the desired improvement in Delhi and some parts of U.P. because of phenomenal increase of population upstream of the river and lack of availability of fresh water for ensuring minimum flow in the river.

The pollution abatement works are implemented through Implementing Agencies nominated by the State Governments functioning under their control. No misuse/diversion of the funds under YAP has come to the notice of the Ministry requiring setting up of an inquiry commission.

Conservation of ponds

†2225. SHRI BANWARI LAL KANCHHAL: Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government is aware that level of ground water is depleting constantly and taking note of this scenario Hon'ble High Court has issued strict instructions for conservation of ponds;

(b) the number of conserved ponds in Uttar Pradesh;

(c) whether Government is doing extra efforts to check depletion in the level of ground water; and

(d) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS (SHRI NAMO NARAIN MEENA): (a) As reported by Ministry of Water Resources, Government of India, ground water level has declined in some parts of the country. As per the assessment of ground water resources carried out jointly by the Central Ground Water Board (CGWB) and the States in 2004, the ground water resource assessment units (Blocks/ Mandals/Talukas) in various states of the country are categorized as Over-exploited, Critical and Semi-critical based on the stage of ground water development and the long term water level declining trend either in pre-monsoon or post-monsoon or both during the past decade (1995—2004). Out of 5723 such assessment units, 839 units have been categorized as 'Over-exploited', 226 units are reported to be 'Critical' whereas 550 units have been identified as 'Semi-critical'.

† Original notice of the question was received in Hindi.

Information regarding the instruction of the Hon'ble High Court on conservation of ponds is not available with the Ministry of Water Resources.

(b) As per information from Ground Water Department, Government of Uttar Pradesh, a total of 51488 ponds have been restored/conserved.

(c) and (d) Government of India has undertaken steps to check depletion in the level of ground water by adopting measures through rain water harvesting and artificial recharge. These include circulation of a Model Bill for enactment of suitable legislation, circulation of manual to formulate area specific schemes, preparation of Master Plan for artificial recharge, constitution of Central Ground Water Authority under the Environment (Protection) Act, 1986 for regulation and control of ground water management and development, implementation of Central sector schemes for study of artificial recharge to ground water in the country during IX & XI Plans etc.

Dam on Neelam River

†2226. SHRI RAJ MOHINDER SINGH MAJITHA:
DR. MURLI MANOHAR JOSHI:

Will the Minister of EXTERNAL AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that a project to carry water upto Jhelum river by constructing dam at Neelam river in the illegally occupied territory in Kashmir is being formulated by Pakistan;

(b) if so, the facts thereof and whether it is also a fact that construction work of this project has been assigned to Chinese agencies;

(c) if so, the facts thereof and whether it is a step forward to create a new crisis towards security of Indian borders; and

(d) if so, the reaction of Government thereto?

THE MINISTER OF EXTERNAL AFFAIRS (SHRI PRANAB MUKHERJEE): (a) and (b) Yes. The proposed Neelam-Jhelum Project is situated in Muzaffarabad district of Pakistan Occupied Kashmir. Government are aware of reports that the construction contract of the project has been awarded to a Chinese consortium.

(c) and (d) The Indus Commissioner of the Government of India has asked the Government of Pakistan for an inspection visit to the Neelam Valley. The Government of Pakistan are yet to arrange the visit. Government keep a constant watch on developments having a bearing on India's security and take necessary measures to safeguard it.

Impact of Hyde Act on Nuclear Deal

†2227. SHRI RAJ MOHINDER SINGH MAJITHA:
DR. MURLI MANOHAR JOSHI:

Will the Minister of EXTERNAL AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that U.S.A. has passed Hyde Act in recent last years;

(b) if so, whether U.S.A. has passed this act after proposal of 123 agreement under nuclear deal with India;

† Original notice of the question was received in Hindi.